

MORMONISM.

The Lingering But Vigorous Twin Relic of Barbarism.

Report of the Utah Commission to Secretary Teller.

Polygamy a Disgrace to Civilization—It Must Go.

Washington, D. C., October 30.—The board of Utah commissioners to-day submitted their second annual report to the secretary of the interior. After making a statement of the former legislation of congress in relation to bigamy or polygamy, they say the duties of the commission pertain only to matters of registration, election and eligibility to office, while the punishment of the crime of polygamy is left as under the former law to the courts of justice under the polygamy act. The commission had good success at the general election of August, 1883, in excluding polygamists from the polls, and as far as advised very few if any illegal voters have been cast in Utah since the commission took charge of the registration and elections in August, 1882. The enforcement of the present law against 1,200 polygamists who have been excluded from the polls shows the act has been fully and successfully executed. It is thought the discrimination between those who practice polygamy and those who do not is not likely to have much effect upon elderly men who already have plenty of wives and several families, but must have great weight with young men in the territory, many of whom are ambitious and aspiring, and would not like voluntarily to embrace political ostracism. The very existence of the law disfranchising polygamists must tend to destroy their influence whenever it is understood it is to be a permanent discrimination. The fact that it will be necessary for the preservation of the political influence of the people's party, as the Mormons style themselves, to have a large body of their members who are not polygamists, must tend in time to weaken the practice of polygamy, for every married Mormon who takes but one plural wife loses three votes for his party his own and those of his two wives, woman suffrage being established by law in Utah.

Concerning the plurality of wives, the report says that a doctrine and practice so odious throughout Christendom should be upheld so many years against the laws of congress and the sentiments of the civilized world, is one the marvels of this century, and can be scarcely appreciated even by those familiar with the world's history in relation to the difficulties of governmental control or suppression of religious fanaticism. No government can permit a revolution of its laws under the guise of religious freedom, and while congress may not legislate as to mere matters of opinion, yet it may denounce and punish as crimes those actions which are in violation of social duties or subversive of good order. The right of congress to suppress this great evil is undoubted. It is equally plain that the dignity and good name of this great government among the nations of the earth demand such congressional action as shall effectually eliminate the national disgrace. The commission renewed the recommendations contained in their report of last November, notably the one regarding a marriage law by congress, declaring all future marriages in the territory null and void, unless contracted in the manner to be provided by the act. If the next legislature shall fail to adopt measures in conformity to the provisions of the act of 1882 for the suppression of polygamy, the committee will be prepared to recommend and congress will certainly not delay the adoption of the most stringent measures compatible with the limitations of the constitution that may be considered necessary for the suppression of this great evil. The report refers to various municipal elections, and says the most important election was held on August 6th, 1883. The total number of votes cast in this election was 21,969, against 27,923 last November. The principal falling off was on the part of the Gentiles or Liberal party. In November the total vote of the People's or Mormon party was 25,029, Liberal 4,884; in August, 1883, the vote of the People's party was 20,508, Liberal, 1,436, from which it appears that large numbers of Liberals refrained from voting, a fact much to be regretted, for the reason that it is believed that by proper effort and good management one or more non-Mormons might be elected to the legislative assembly, who would have the opportunity of putting the majority on record. In conclusion, the commissioners say that recently ten suits were instituted in the Third district court of Utah, by Mormons, against members of the commission, claiming that they had been unjustly deprived of the right to register and vote. These are understood to be test cases, designed to contest the constitutionality of the Edmunds act, as well as the legal construction which we put upon its provisions. These suits are upon their merits, and are likely to be appealed to the supreme court of the United States. It has been asserted that polygamous marriages have increased since the passage of the Edmunds act; on the contrary, we hold the opinion that they have comparatively decreased since the passage of said act. After diligent inquiry, we believe the latter conclusion is correct, but the opportunity of satisfying the country on this particular subject by passing such a public marriage act, which we have suggested, is one that which we have indicated they will give the government assurance of their loyalty and patriotism, and avert a contest that cannot but result in their disfranchisement. We consider it proper to recommend the zeal of the governor of Utah in his efforts to enforce the law.

ALEX. RAMSEY, A. S. PADDOCK, G. M. GODFREY, M. B. CARLTON, J. R. PRITCHELL.

To Hon. H. M. Teller, secretary of the Interior.

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In offering the following briefly described lands for sale we desire it understood that the prices are given subject to change without notice.

- NO. 385, WISE COUNTY.—1470 acres, 11 miles southwest of Decatur, all good oak timber, on Long Creek. Will make a fine sheep ranch. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 374, SHERY COUNTY.—21,720 acres, 30 miles north of the city, all good oak timber. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 325, JONES COUNTY.—14,400 acres in east part of county, nearly in a square, mostly prairie, five streams running through this land. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 320, YOUNG COUNTY.—500 acres, southwest of the city, on the line of Clear Fork and Brazos Rivers; land rich second bottom. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 310, TARRANT COUNTY.—100 acres, eleven miles west of Fort Worth, north of Weatherford road; box house, two rooms; 25 acres cultivated, good spring, close to school house. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 233, STONEWALL COUNTY.—425 acres, southeast part of county, on Double Mountain Fork of Brazos; excellent water and excellent grazing land. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 243, BELL COUNTY.—1000 on line of Double Mountain Fork of Brazos; excellent water and excellent grazing land; good improvements; cost \$300. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 250, DENTON COUNTY.—915 acres, 3 miles of land, all other things, including a fine house, etc. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 275, DEAN COUNTY.—200 acres, 4 miles north of Denton; good for farming and grazing both. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 282, JACK COUNTY.—160 acres, grazing land, 8 miles south of Jackson; all in good and cheap. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 281, HOUSTON COUNTY.—800 acres, pine timber land. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 280, TARRANT COUNTY.—0 acres, 6 miles south of Fort Worth. Price \$2 per acre. NO. 315, HUTCHESON COUNTY.—250 acres, southwest part of county; 100 of it Double Mountain Fork and tributaries; sold. Price \$1.50 per acre. NO. 280, KILLE COUNTY.—185 acres, fine farming and grazing land, 15 miles southwest of Junction City, on waters of Chestnut Creek. Price \$1.50 per acre. NO. 290, BURNETT COUNTY.—1200 acres, prairie timber land, suitable for farming. Price \$1.50 per acre. NO. 294, GROESBECK COUNTY.—8500 acres, watered grazing land at mouth of Fergus River. Price \$1.50 per acre. NO. 403, HALE COUNTY.—600 acres, fifteen miles southeast corner county. Price \$1 per acre. NO. 432, Pecos COUNTY.—2500 acres of grazing land, price \$1 per acre, 2000 acres of grazing land, price \$1 per acre, situated southeast from center county; valleys good for farming, and all good grazing land, abundant supply of feeding water. NO. 475, HUMBERT COUNTY.—500 acres, good farming land, Henry Field's survey; dirt cheap at \$1.50 per acre. NO. 480, HALL COUNTY.—2200 acres on line of Eastland county; 1200 acres timber, 2000 grazing, 1000 suitable for farming. Price \$1.50 per acre. NO. 500, HALL COUNTY.—1750 acres, ten miles from Texas Pacific Railroad, headwaters Little Rock; strong, prominent springs, 815 acres timber, two hundred acres in grazing. Price \$1.50 per acre. C. TRESIDOR COUNTY.—4500 acres solid body of alternate sections, well watered, price cents per acre. This is fine grazing land and a magnificent investment. D. HARRIS COUNTY.—1500 acres, eight miles from center county, excellent timber, a splendid ranch. Price \$2.75 per acre. E. SOUTHEAST TEXAS.—10000 acres selected yellow pine timber land, short land to railroad or river. Price \$2 per acre. F. EASTERN TEXAS.—5000 acres, locate in Shelby, Sabine, San Augustine, Angelina, Tyler, Jasper, Newton and Reddin counties. 81500 acres lands, at from \$1 to \$2.50 acre. Special attention given to filling orders for timber lands or grazing lands, in large or small lots.

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